

The City of Marion, South Carolina

SWAMP FOX SCENE

A FREE monthly news magazine for
the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City



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May 2018



Annual Foxtrot Festival

Marion Foxtrot Festival has been scheduled for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Thursdays of Foxtrot weekend is reserved for the youth with entertainment from magic shows, to story-tellers galore. Friday night includes a spectacular fireworks show for the entire family to jump start the Saturday fun!

The line up of events for this festival on Saturday, includes a 10 a.m. parade,

arts and crafts, food vendors, cars and tractors show, amusements, a petting zoo and pony rides. A street dance, with live music rounds out Saturday's events.

For more information, visit www.marionfoxtrotfest.com, or contact Regina Stanley, 843-206-4182 or email marionfoxtrotfestival@gmail.com.

Mark your calendar for May 17th, 18th and 19th. You don't want to miss it!!

Come share in the fun, activities, music and food. A little something for everyone.

Safe Exchange Zones



The Marion Police Department has designated two parking spaces behind the police department as Safe Exchange Zones. This will provide residents of the City of Marion and neighboring areas a safe place to exchange money and items purchased online, as well as a child custody exchange location. The area is under 24 hour video surveillance and is available to the public 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Many times officers

are called to other areas of the city in regards to child custody issues and internet purchases, only to arrive and one party has already left. Conducting the exchanges at the Marion Police Department allows an officer to be present in many cases, as well as video footage of the exchange taking place. This will help reduce or eliminate any problems or disagreements in a timely manner and may possibly prevent someone from being scammed with counterfeit items that were purchased online. If you have any questions or concerns in regarding the Safe Exchange Zone, please contact Lt. Flowers at the Marion Police Department, (843) 423-8616, ext. 308.



Pleasant Grove Baptist Church will host the celebration of National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 3rd

Dr. A. C. Robinson extends a cordial invitation to all Pastors, Congregations, Elected Officials, Educators Protective Service and members of the public, to join in this special service at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. 1333 Penderboro Road. Marion, 7:00 p.m. **Organizing committee members are Bishop Michael Blue, Karen Christmas, Rev. Adam Work .**

This years theme is "Praying for America- UNITY". Scripture - Ephesians 4:3. "Making every effort to keep the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace..."

For more information call Karen at 843-229-0260.

PROJECT HERO



At 70 years old, Jerry Lachance of Sandown, New Hampshire will cover about 3,000 miles between Key West Florida and the Northeastern Canadian border. The endeavor

will span over 37 days on a bicycle in an effort to raise money for disabled veterans through Project Hero. Project Hero is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to helping veterans and first responders affected by post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries and more. The organization also provides modified bikes for disabled veterans.

"This isn't about Jerry riding his bike. This is about the veterans," said Lachance, of Sandown, New Hampshire. "This is to help them realize they have a life. Just because you lost your legs doesn't mean you're going to drop out of society."

Lachance, a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran, had a smile on his face Tuesday as he was warmly welcomed by Chief Trey Cooper and the Marion Fire Department. He rode out of The Town of Andrew, SC at 7:00 a.m. and arrived at the City of Marion Fire Department at 4:00 p.m. on April 24, 2018.

Project Hero has used the money and more to build 200 adaptive bikes for disabled veterans and donated 2,500 bikes to veterans.

He is not worried about the hardship, or any weather that may hinder his travel. As long as he can help veterans, that's all that matters. "I want to do more to help my wounded and disabled brothers and sisters recover," Lachance said in a statement on his Project Hero page.

Find Mr. Jerry Lachance on Facebook [JerryRide](https://www.facebook.com/JerryRide) for updates of his journey.

CITY NEWS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Marion Chamber of Commerce announces Yard of the Month



Dusty and Shellie have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for April 2018. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add so much to our community's unique character. Dusty and Shellie will receive a Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check in recognition of this honor.

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

- May 2nd**
8:30 a.m. **Rise and Shine** hosted by the FoxTrot Festival, at the HMRA Business Center, 103 E. Dozier Street.
- May 3rd**
HMRA Annual Meeting & Membership Drive. The Grove-The Inn on Harlee St.. 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. All are invited.
- May 3rd**
7:00 p.m. - **National Day of Prayer.** Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 1333 Penderboro Rd, Marion. For more information contact Ms. Karen Christmas at (843) 229-0260.
- May 3rd**
8:30 a.m. - **CPR Classes.** Marion Fire Department, 107 E. Bond St.
- May 5th**
7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. **Marion/Mullins Rotary Garage Sale.** 3153 E. Hwy 76, Mullins. All proceeds stay in our county to support Rotary projects.
- May 6th-12th**
National Travel & Tourism Week
- May 8th**
6:30 p.m. **City Council Meeting,** Council Chambers.
- May 11th**
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. **Shred Day,** Behind Baxley's Hardware. (Parking Lot)
- May 13th**
Mother's Day
- May 17th-19th**
26th Annual FoxTrot Festival - For more information, visit www.marionfoxtrotfest.com, or contact Regina Stanley, 843-206-4182 or email marionfoxtrotfestival@gmail.com.
- May 28th**
Memorial Day – City and County offices Closed. City of Marion Reopen on Tuesday, May 29th 8:00 a.m.

NEED HELP?

Call City Hall, 843-423-5961, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you.

- Mayor Ashley Brady,** (843) 423-5961, (843) 992-3773
- Alan Ammons,** City Administrator & Building Official, Ext. 19
- Vacant,** City Clerk, Ext. 10
- Patricia Brown,** City Treasurer, Ext. 18
- Ainsley Sanders,** Administrative Assistant, Ext. 11
- Elizabeth Gray,** Personnel & Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614
- Vickie J. Nichols,** Grant Writing & Publicist, Ext. 22
- Kim Elliott,** Recreation Director, (843) 423-5410
- Randy Brown,** Maintenance Superintendent (843) 423-5961
- Winky Fore,** Public Works Superintendent (843) 423-8648
- Chris Smith,** Captain (843) 423-8616
- Lt. Tony Flowers,** Investigator (843) 423-8616
- Lt. Marilyn Rogers,** Investigator (843) 423-8616
- Trey Cooper,** Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
- Jackie Yates,** Assistant Fire Chief (843) 423-8602
- Heather Evans,** Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616
- Almeta Mullins,** Secretary, (843) 423-8616

The Swamp Fox Scene is the City of Marion's Free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitor's of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. Printed by Herald Multiforms in Dillon, city employees produce and distribute the newspaper.

The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs.

A PDF version is available by e-mail or online. For more information about the newspaper, call Mayor Ashley Brady or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

SHRED DAY—2018

The Chamber of Commerce will have their annual shred day on May 11, 2018 from 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. behind Baxley Hardware (parking lot).

4 boxes per household or business. **NO COST.** Chamber will accept donations toward their 2018 Educational Programs.

Thanks to First Charter Company and Wheeler Street Package Store.

Come out and bring all your old tax papers.

Membership Campaign

The Month of May: HMRA 2018-2019 Membership Campaign in Progress. Be on the lookout for correspondence in your mail or visit www.theswampfox.org.

HMRA 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

HMRA will have their Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 3, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and it is open to the public. Meeting place is The Grove-The Inn on Harlee Street. There will be a Silent Auction, light Hors d'oeuvres, Updates and a Live Auction. See you there!!

A-TEAM NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Contributed by: Dolly Boyer

We often refer to neighborhood watch as being the eyes and ears of law enforcement. To be effective citizens must know what to report. So what do we report? The short answer to that is suspicious activity, defined as “anything that feels uncomfortable or looks out of place. “ Some common examples of suspicious activity are:

- ◆ A stranger loitering in the area or a vehicle cruising the streets repeatedly.
- ◆ Someone peering into car windows.
- ◆ High traffic volume going and coming from a particular home on a daily basis.
- ◆ Someone loitering around schools, parks or secluded areas.
- ◆ Strange odors coming from a building, car or house.
- ◆ Open or broken doors and windows at an unoccupied house or closed business.
- ◆ Signs of forced entry or tampering with security or safety systems.
- ◆ Persons coming and going from homes or businesses at unusual hours.
- ◆ Someone tampering with electrical, gas, or sewer systems without an identifiable company uniform or vehicle.

By calling to report suspicious activity, you aid the police and make your community a safer place to live. Do not assume that someone else is reporting the activity or be afraid of being labeled a nosy neighbor.

Police do not know there’s a problem unless they are told and they can’t be everywhere.

On a personal, note I would like to say “THANK YOU” to the city for the public service award I received last month. It was a humbling experience and I share it with all of A-TEAM who work hard to make our neighborhood safer. I could not do it without them and the support of my family. Everything I do is because I love where I live!

Marion Chamber Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



The Marion Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for The Real Spot Café and Lounge on Friday, April 13th at 11am. The Real Spot Café and Lounge is owned by Lavore White and is located at 104 West Dozier Street. The Real Spot is an upscale café that fuses the mouth-watering taste of flavors with the exciting new techniques. Specialties include Signature Salads, Vegan/Vegetarian Dishes, Hot Wings, Wraps, Sandwiches, Subs, Specialty non-alcoholic Drinks, and Smoothies along with home-made baked items.

Marion Chamber of Commerce President Deborah Martin, Mayor Ashley Brady, and other attendees were on hand for the ribbon cutting.

City of Marion ISO Rating

The City of Marion Fire Department has achieved a 3 rating on their Public Protection Classification through the Insurance Services Organization, otherwise known simply as an ISO rating. This rating is important to the citizens of Marion, because it is used to figure insurance premiums.

The Insurance Services Organization is an independent company that assesses communities for their ability to extinguish a fire and prevent fire damage. The ISO rating is a number from 1 to 10 with 1 being the best rating and 10 being no fire protection. The lower the rating the more homeowners will save on insurance premiums. The insured property must be within 5 road miles of a fire station and within 500 feet of a fire hydrant to receive the lowest premium.

Marion Fire Department is a mostly volunteer combination fire department, which has eight full-time firefighters and thirty volunteers. This rating increase would not have been possible without their tireless efforts stated Chief Trey Cooper.

Marion Fire Department will be teaching



May 3, 2018 starting at 8:30 a.m. at the Marion Fire Department



For more information and to register, please contact Chief Trey Cooper at (843) 423-8602 or email tcooper@marionsc.gov.

Marion Fire Department will be teaching CPR classes on May 3, 2018 starting at 8:30 a.m. at the Marion Fire Department.

For more information and to register, please contact Chief Trey Cooper at (843) 423-8602 or email tcooper@marionsc.gov.

Mark your calendars!!

Learn Lifesaving Skills from the Experts.

Tisdale is city's employee of the Month



The City of Marion recognized firefighter Chandler Tisdale as its March 2018 Employee of the Month. Chandler started his career with the City of Marion Fire Department as an Explorer when he was in high school. He accepted a fulltime position with the department last year and graduated from the SC Fire Academy in December 2017. Chandler is also a certified EMT and serves as a member of the Marion Rescue Squad.

Chandler was previously recognized in 2017, when he was named both Firefighter of the Year and Rescue Member of the Year. “Chandler takes his position as a firefighter personally”, said Assistant Chief Jackie Yates. “His positive attitude, strong work ethic and willingness to train make him a valuable asset to the Marion Fire Department and our community”.

The Mayor and Council recognized Chandler Tisdale for his dedication and contributions to the City of Marion at the April 10th Council Meeting.

Book Article



The Marion Chamber of Commerce continued its Book Project this year which is to give all Marion County 3rd grade students a copy of “Francis Marion and the Legend of the Swamp Fox”. The Chamber is proud of this project as it expands our student’s knowledge of the history of General Francis Marion.

This year the Chamber received a mini-grant in the amount of \$1500 from the Marion County Healthcare Foundation to assist with the purchase of over 400 books. Pete Mazzaroni, Marion County Healthcare Foundation Executive Director posed with Chamber President, Deborah Martin in the presentation of the check. The Chamber would like to express our thanks to the Healthcare Foundation as well as the other sponsors of our Book Project. An insert was placed in each book denoting the sponsors of this project. The books were distributed to the 3rd graders on March 6, 2018.

Marion Recreation Opening Day Ceremony 2018



What a wonderful day as we opened our baseball/ softball season for 2018 on Saturday March 24th. In attendance was our very own Mayor, Ashley Brady along with Lucas Atkinson, South

Carolina House Representative #57. Other special guests were Mr. Kory Johnson who performed our opening prayer, and Mr. Norman Foxworth who blessed us with his voice in singing the National Anthem.

The players and their coaches were all announced and allowed to run out on the field. At home plate they were met by Mayor Ashley Brady, Lucas Atkinson and Mr. Norman Foxworth where they were given high fives, fist bumps and hand shakes. This is one part of the ceremony all children enjoy, running on the field.

Our catchers for the event were Anna Grace Page, softball and Dawson Brown, baseball. Once all players were on the field, the prayer was performed along with the National Anthem. Mayor Ashley Brady then moved out to the pitcher's mound where he threw out the ceremonial first pitch for softball and then baseball. We had over 250 children represented.

It was a cold day but a great day. The players looked phenomenal in their new jerseys, thanks to all the sponsors for their continued support of the Rec. Sponsors included Williamson Printing, Anderson Brothers Bank, L&S Concessions, Johnson's Roofing, Danny L. Herring Construction, Marion Family Dentistry, AutoMoney, Wells Fargo Bank, First Citizens' Bank, Elliott Hauling, Causey's Flooring, The George Agency, Baxley Hardware, United One Insurance, Degan Medical, and Marion Tire.

The Marion Recreation is proud to have the continued support of all the parents, players, volunteer coaches, sponsors and citizens of the City of Marion. Thank you all for everything. It was truly a great day!

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Judy's Flowers

Written by Promotions Team of Historic Marion Revitalization Association:

Judy Baker is the owner and Tory Baker is the manager of Judy's flower shop. Their business was established January 17th, 1987.



Their motto is and always has been, "Get it done". Their use of using natural materials in floral arrangements is something that truly makes them unique in their line of business. They offer fresh flowers, plants, silk and dry arrangements. Ju-

dy was self-taught in this business and then she groomed her girls in floral design and together they are remarkable. They want people to know that they love what they do, and they aim to please everyone. One thing they enjoy most of doing business in Marion is the People, they have always been faithful to Judy's flowers and for that, Judy is beyond thankful.



Judy's began in 1987 in the 21st Old Shopping center across from the old Walmart (where the county offices are now), she rented from Jerry Richardson. In 1990 Judy moved to Main Street and rented from Lewis Dozier and in 1991 she purchased that building which was located at 329 N Main. In 2008 Judy moved out to the flower shop by Richardson's funeral home and rented from Jerry again until the flood of Hurricane Matthew, where she lost everything. In 2017 Judy bought a building back on Main Street from Betty Joe Perritt. It was originally the Western Auto when Judy was growing up in the 50'd and 60's. She has transformed the building, inside and out to its current state. She hopes to stay here to the end of her working days, doing what she loves, FLOWERS!

To all of Marion Community, you are always welcome to get a hot meal every Monday from 11-12 at the Marion Baptist Soup Kitchen. There is no cost to come to this.

Helping Hands Free Medical Clinic is seeking compassionate and active professionals to join in providing quality healthcare services for the residents of Marion County. For more information email, thodge@hhfmc.net or (843) 423-5212

Greater Mullins Chamber of Commerce will have their Annual Golf Tournament on May 9, 2018. For more information contact Michelle Rogers, Executive Director at (843) 464-6654.

Sports and Fitness Seminar Hear from the Doctor About Sports and Physical Fitness

Please come out to our FREE educational community seminar on May 22, 5:30 p.m. at Carolinas Hospital System Marion, classroom A. Listen to knowledgeable medical professional talk about sports and fitness and how to reduce your risk for injury.

Frederick Hamilton, D.O., with Marion Orthopaedic Associates will be the featured speaker.

For information or questions please contact Morgan E. Holley, Director of Marketing for Carolina Hospital Systems, Marion MHolley@mcmcd.org or (843) 431-2079.

NO TIRES OR TELEVISIONS ON CURBSIDE

The City takes pride in keeping Historical Marion looking beautiful. With spring comes warmer weather and the grass-cutting season is quickly approaching. There are City Ordinances for over grown and vacant lots. If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact City Hall at (843) 423-5961. In case you didn't know, a **tire, tires** or **televisions** place curbside in the City of Marion is considered litter by city ordinance. For health and safety reasons and in accordance with DHEC regulations, city employees no longer pick up **tires** or **television** at curbside. The fine for littering is **\$1,092.50**. Homeowners are to dispose of unwanted tires and television at the **Palmetto Hardwood Recycle Center** located at **2631 Senator Gasque Rd, Marion SC**. Call the **Palmetto Hardwood Recycle Center** at **(843) 423-8284** for hours of operation. If you have any questions about this reminder, please call the city administrator at Marion City Hall, (843) 423-5961. Property owners in the Historic District. Please be aware of the zoning ordinances and guidelines that are in place before any changes are made to historic properties. If you have any questions, please contact City Hall at (843) 423-5961.

